

C LEVEL HIKING GROUP - MONDAYS

Meet at the Eagles Nest clubhouse at 6:30 am, depart at 6:45. Early hikes will meet/depart at 5:30/5:45.

April 2 - Saddle Mountain Saddle View (Tonopah). Rating C. This is a 6 mile in-and-out hike with an elevation gain of 1100 ft. The trail works its way around to views of the saddle of Saddle Mountain. There are great views of the rugged rock formations that comprise the mountain. Trail condition - the early part of the trail is a very good surface, but the last mile is across open desert with no real trail. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 90 miles.

<https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Other-10/Saddle-Mountain-Tonapah>

April 9 - Dragonfly + Metate Loop, Spur Cross Rec Area (Cave Creek). Rating C. This is a 7 mile loop hike with an elevation gain of 800 ft. We head out on the Spur Cross trail to the Metate trail. On the Metate trail there is a forest of very large saguaros. You will cross Cave Creek and travel past the ruins of some houses and an active watering pond. We then go through typical desert terrain for a while. We drop back down into Cave Creek itself. The whole area along the creek is a riparian area, which contains permanent pools of water and lots of vegetation. The trail makes a loop around the Jewel of the Creek Preserve, which contains many different bird species and up to 20 different dragonfly species. We finish with a short rise back up to the road we drove in on and a short walk back to the cars. Trail condition - average hiking trail with a couple of creek crossings. Porta-johns are just past the parking area in the park, and there is a park fee is \$3.00 per person. The Dragonfly trail is free, but the other trails in the area are not. Driving distance is 110 miles RT.

[SCG=5.5/600/2.5]. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/SpurCrossRanchConservationArea/Metate-Dragonfly-Trails>

April 16 - East Peak Loop (Phoenix Sonoran Preserve South). Rating C. This is a 7 mile lollipop loop hike with an elevation gain of 1200 ft. This trail system is made up of well-maintained trails. The hike goes through typical desert terrain before ascending a hill for excellent views to the south. After good spring rains this would be a great wildflower viewing hike. No restrooms at the trailhead. No park fee. Driving distance is 68 miles RT.

April 23 - Quartz Mine/Lost Creek/Turnbuckle Loop (Skyline Regional Park). Rating C. This is a loop hike of 7 miles with an elevation gain of 1000 ft. This hike does a loop up to a high point in the park and then circles back through a valley. There are lots of views of the west valley. Trail condition – average hiking trail with one long uphill section. Restrooms are at the trailhead. There is no park fee. Driving distance is 30 miles RT. <https://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Skyline-Park/Outer-Loop-Trails>

April 30 - Constellation & Willow Lake Dells (Prescott). Rating C+. This is a 7 mile multi-loop hike with an elevation gain of about 1400 ft. There are lots of great views of the Granite Dells rock formations as well as Willow Lake and the mountains of Prescott. There are a couple of “fat man’s pass” like cuts through the rocks as well as a bridge across a portion of the rock formations. Trail condition - much of the trail is on granite boulders (they use white paint to park the trail) and there are many short hills to go up over and down. No park fee. There is a porta-john across the road on the trail. Driving distance is 223 miles RT. <http://pchikingclub.smugmug.com/Prescott-1/Constellation>